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REMEMBERING 9/11

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today on this most moving and memorable of occasions after we as a nation joined together to mark the solemn 10th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. Throughout my home State of Maine and across this great land, Americans are uniting as one nation indivisible as we pause to remember with the heaviest of hearts the tragedy that befell our nation 10 years ago—a morning that changed America—and Americans—forever.

We are all a different people in America—no matter our faith or ancestry—as a result of the horrific events on 9/11 that are ingrained upon the landscape of our consciousness for all time. We all know where we were and what we were doing at the precise time they happened. As many of us remember the assassination of President Kennedy, and some Pearl Harbor, our children will remember this day.

As we recall, that morning began with such remarkable blue skies, but ended with a Nation in mourning and stunned disbelief. In Washington, DC, I watched the images along with the rest of the world. Later, as the Sun set over the National Mall—still capped by smoke billowing from the wound in the side of the Pentagon—I will never forget gathering with my colleagues in the House and Senate on the Capitol steps to sing “God Bless America.” We sang to send a message to the country and to the world that we would never be deterred—that freedom would never be crushed by the blunt and remorseless instruments of terror.

The notes of “God Bless America” still reverberate, the resilience we recaptured as a country remains pressed upon our national psyche, and the memory of the inspirational sacrifices of so many heroic Americans who perished that morning will forever have a home in our hearts and our prayers.

On this September 11 as in all that have preceded it, we mourn the loss of those eight individuals from Maine who were taken from us all too soon—Anna Allison, Carol Flyzik, Robert Jalbert, Jacqueline Norton, Robert Norton, James Roux, Robert Schlegel, and Stephen Ward.

We remember the heroic acts of valor that will always distinguish the men and women of 115 different nations who went to work that day, or boarded a plane, or rushed to the aid of strangers whose lives they believed were as vital

as their own—and never returned home. If 9/11 was a snapshot of horror, it also became a portrait of consummate humanity. If it laid bare the unimaginable cruelties of which humankind is capable, it also etched forever within our minds the heights to which the human spirit can rise—even and especially in the face of mortality.

Each had a soul, and having visited Ground Zero in the aftermath, I can tell you their presence still triumphed over the twisted destruction—and it always will. We recall that during one of the darkest days in our Nation's extraordinary and storied history, we also witnessed our Nation's mettle and solidarity, the inexhaustible courage and undaunted bravery that provided us with boundless inspiration and hope that sustained us then and inspires us today.

And nowhere was that more evident than with the first responders who, in the face of unspeakable adversity and peril, heroically ran toward the very dangers others were desperately trying to escape, placing their lives in harm's way in the most courageous and valiant of endeavors to save others without regard for their own safety.

As Americans, we are awed by the noble examples of courage and selflessness that emerged. When the alarm went off in fire stations across New York, firefighters were changing shifts. If they were on the way home, they turned around. If they were finishing up at the firehouse, getting ready to leave, they stayed. Some were retired—veterans already at home—and they reported in. Many were to find themselves climbing higher and higher in those great silver towers toward a fate that must have become clearer with every step.

Their valiant service and sacrifice are also a vivid reminder of the remarkable men and women exceptional enough to don our country's uniform to serve and defend our nation. Whether on our shores or soil here at home or around the globe, their steadfast sense of duty and love of country are an inspiration to us all, their commitment fortifies our will, and their professionalism steadies our hands in an uncertain world.

As I gathered with Mainers across our State, I could not help but feel that inescapable, palpable sense of patriotism that binds us all together as Americans. It is also, I believe, a continuation of the heightened love of country all of us experienced when our Nation's bravest and finest—in this case our Navy SEALs—achieved what Americas detractors said was unachievable. They triumphantly rid the world of public enemy number one, and brought justice to the evil incarnate that was Osama bin Laden.

In speaking of bin Laden, I have often sounded the refrain that you can run but you cannot hide. Well, thanks to the combined might of our military, intelligence, and counter-terrorism professionals, the message sent to the

terrorists of the world with the death of Osama bin Laden is that America will prevail no matter how long it takes, whatever it takes, no matter where you are.

Though justice was finally rendered, the unending pain of loved ones lost does not ease with the passing of years, and yet out of these atrocities emerged heroes who were then and will forever be shining testaments to the very best of who we are as a nation. And so, today, we memorialize those whose lives were stilled on September 11, and at the same time, we cannot help but extol the courage and indomitable spirit they exhibited.

It was an unmistakable message to the world that we would never be deterred—that our freedoms could never be crushed by the cowardly instruments of terror that are no match against a resilient people certain in the knowledge that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

What better symbol could there be of our mettle as a people than the historic National 9/11 Flag initiative. Americans across our country are stitching together the tattered remnants of one of the largest flags that flew over the wreckage at Ground Zero. When our beloved banner of freedom arrived at the U.S. Capitol on July 14, I cannot begin to convey the sense of honor and privilege I experienced in contributing to its restoration. And to share in this event with first responders, 9/11 families, and veterans made this moment one I will treasure, always.

This expression of love for our homeland speaks to the inescapable belief that our strength as a nation has always emanated not from Washington, but from the people themselves—from tireless patriots of their own volition performing the most extraordinary of deeds.

Patriots like the exemplary Freeport Flag Ladies—Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and JoAnn Miller, who have waved American flags on Main Street every Tuesday morning, rain, snow, or shine, since 9-11 in tribute to those who have sacrificed for all of us—our brave servicemen and women and our first responders. It was the highest of honors for me to join them early Sunday morning on Main Street in Freeport to wave flags on the 10th anniversary.

Amid the trials and tribulations that this date in our history evokes, we take solace in the sacred truth that none of us grieves alone—that there are no strangers among us, only Americans. Indeed, out of the rubble rose our resolve, out of despair grew our determination, and out of the hate that was perpetrated upon us proudly stood our humanity. And so, we venerate the American spirit that is stronger than stone and mortar, tougher than steel and glass, and more permanent than any pain or suffering that can be inflicted upon us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMUNITY SHARES OF
COLORADO

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Community Shares of Colorado, a philanthropic organization that is celebrating 25 years of supporting Colorado's communities. In its years of service, Community Shares has demonstrated a tireless commitment to supporting Colorado's non-profits and providing individuals with an opportunity to do the same.

Community Shares strives to connect Coloradans of any economic background with organizations that inspire them. The organizations staff and supporters firmly believe that philanthropy should not be restricted to the most affluent, but rather should be extended to include any and all who are willing to give. Using this approach, they have brought together average gifts of \$5 a week for a total of nearly \$20 million in support of more than 100 nonprofits.

Furthermore, Community Shares has recently begun a program entitled "My Colorado Project" aimed at encouraging our kids and young Coloradans to develop the habits of philanthropy and social responsibility. This innovative program expands traditional donation to include elements of social media and creates an engaging virtual community that involves our young, emerging philanthropists in supporting their communities and causes they care about with a geographic, age-accessible online tool.

The organizations that Community Shares supports are local and dedicated to the issues that define Colorado, from protecting our abundant natural resources to improving health care and promoting community leadership.

I join the State of Colorado in thanking the staff of this organization for their hard work and dedication, and I look forward to its continued success.●

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I recognize the 25th anniversary season of Music in the Mountains, a nonprofit classical music festival held in Durango, CO. This festival began in 1987 when Maestro Mischa Seminetsky assembled 11 musicians and offered 5 chamber music performances. Under the strong and capable leadership of executive director Susan Lander and current board president Terry Bacon, the festival has grown to more than 220 musicians, many of whom are esteemed first chairs from orchestras across the country and a number of world renowned soloists. The festival now offers nearly thirty orchestral and chamber performances as well as a number of nontraditional musical events.

In addition the festival includes a conservatory program that provides musical training and mentoring for up to 100 young musicians from around

the world. In 2000 Mischa Seminetsky and then-board president Ann Flatten began the Music in the Mountains Goes to School Program to reach out to local school children for instructional sessions and miniconcerts. Since then Music in the Mountains has become a regular partner with local schools in Durango offering a variety of teaching programs and activities during the school year that impact the life of hundreds of young students.

This festival would be remarkable in any community; I take particular pride in its being held in Durango, a town of 14,000 residents in the southwest corner of Colorado. The festival is a key component of southwest Colorado's summertime economy providing important economic benefits for the region. Most of the performances are held at the Durango Mountain Ski Resort, a stunningly beautiful resort north of Durango in the San Juan Mountains and an enchanting place to listen to world class music. I congratulate Music in the Mountains and all the volunteers, musicians and community leaders who have made this festival a brilliant success over the last 25 years.●

MAINE MILITARY FUNERAL
HONORS PROGRAM

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I recognize the contribution of the Maine Military Funeral Honors Program of the Army National Guard. The soldiers in this exceptional program perform military honors at the funerals for Maine's fallen warriors and veterans. They pay tribute to the men and women who have served our Nation, and provide comfort and dignity to the families during their time of loss.

On August 27, the Maine Military Funeral Honors Program performed its seven thousandth military funeral, a duty they have carried out since October 2004. Since that time, approximately 30 highly skilled and carefully selected soldiers of the Maine Military Funeral Honors Program have performed funerals for all of Maine's soldiers who have been killed in action, as well as funerals for veterans of every era, including one in July 2010 for a Civil War Veteran, William Wallace Clark, whose remains were recovered in July 2009 from an unmarked grave beside that of his wife. The team performed 424 military funerals in its first year, and this year they will perform over 1,300—sadly more than 3 funerals per day as our World War II veterans are leaving us.

The soldiers of the Maine Military Funeral Honors Program proudly and respectfully render final honors for our fallen heroes, both past and present, from Fort Kent to Kittery, in the sweltering heat or the bitter cold. They never break military bearing and conform to the same exacting standards that are expected of all honor guards across the country, including those at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Maine Military Funeral Honors Program provides services to 96 percent

of the Army veteran population in the State of Maine, a remarkable achievement unmatched by any other State. This year, the program will likely achieve 100 percent. As they continue to meet the growing number of requests to honor those who have answered the call to serve, I continue to be impressed by this exceptional program's dedication to honoring Maine's fallen Army veterans. On the occasion of their seven thousandth military funeral, it is an honor for me to pay homage to those who provide final honors to the best Maine and America have to offer.●

BONNEVILLE COUNTY, IDAHO

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in recognizing Bonneville County's 100-year anniversary.

Established on February 7, 1911, by the Idaho Legislature, Bonneville County was formed out of Bingham County in eastern Idaho, along the Wyoming border. Bonneville County was named for CPT Benjamin Bonneville, an officer in the U.S. Army who was an explorer and fur trapper in the area in the 1830s.

Home to more than 100,000 Idahoans in an area of nearly 2,000 square miles, the county has diverse geography and industry. It is Idaho's fourth largest county and includes the six incorporated cities of Idaho Falls, Ucon, Iona, Ammon, Swan Valley, and Irwin. Outside of these cities, the county has many beautiful natural features, including the Snake River, Palisades Reservoir, Caribou National Forest, Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and Targhee National Forest. Family farmers produce an abundance of agricultural products, including grain, livestock, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, and poultry, throughout the county. Bonneville County also leads the Nation in energy research and development through the Idaho National Laboratory, the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, and the AREVA Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

Bonneville County residents have much to celebrate with 100 years of accomplishments. The work of the Bonneville County Heritage Association and volunteers to organize events observing this milestone, including the centennial Gala Celebration in November, is commendable. Many people have worked hard to make this celebration possible.

I was blessed to grow up and together with my wife raise our children in Bonneville County, where we experienced firsthand the exceptionalism of the people and the communities of the county.

Senator RISCH and I are proud to recognize this landmark anniversary. We congratulate Bonneville County residents for this centennial, and we wish its communities many more years of success.●